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and not the Professors, if this is a fair specimen, are the constituted Judges in the case, and that they will probably continue to do as they have done in the past, more especially to inquire into the piety, and gifts, and prospects of usefulness in their calling as ministers, and it will be a sad day for the church when theological and other learning shall be a *primary qualification*, and piety, gifts and zeal, shall be regarded as but a *secondary thing*, as it is to be feared it is in danger of being regarded as such among you. But does not Dr. L. most unconsciously neutralize himself by his own *extensive* learning, by the *extensive* view he takes of the *present* state of the ministry, and by the *present* state of the church, when he is called upon for the course they are pursuing in the *present* church, because incompetent as they are to do so? Happily this is an idle

THE PRAYER MEETING.

"It is good for us to be here." Where? Why at the prayer meeting, to be sure. It is one of the best places on earth, and our nearest heaven, where what makes it a good place. Because Jesus is expected to be there; and most assuredly he will be. If his brethren meet there in the spirit, And it should be the anxious inquiry of all in going to the place of prayer meeting, "What think ye will be so at the feast?" This question each praying soul may answer in the affirmative. Yes he will be there if I go with my heart filled with his love, and hungering and thirsting so to be like Jesus in anywhere in the church, he is at the prayer meeting. If he is not there, depend upon it he is not in that region of country, and spiritual vitality is dead as a consequence. Martha said to Jesus concerning Lazarus, "If thou hadst been here, my brother would not have died." This may truly be said of any member of a church where the spirit of the Master is wanting. If thou hadst been here, the power of hellion would

disciple will be there. Even where two or three are met in his name he is in the midst of them. The prayer meeting is a kind of heaven or seat of life to the church. Here, the life-giving and life-preserving powers often return, and refreshment goes out again unobstructed, and invigorates the souls through the power of the Holy Spirit system, giving a healing unto vital piety.

As the prayer meeting is a kind of thermostat, it maintains the spiritual temperature of the church. If the temperature is down to zero it will manifest itself in long, wordy and lifeless prayers, dry metaphysical exhortations, and the less singular, word of the spirit and understanding of all of which is continually calculated to fill of that little remaining spirituality there may be left in the meeting. It is brotherly love, the word of prayer, the word of knowledge, and burden of the meeting, with a long and worded form. If the exhortation is not warm from the heart, and cannot be expressed in the spirit, he must state plainly in a few words and then stop. If he is not singing a song of praise which comes well out of a sweet spirit, let him hold his peace. There are some places where the prayer meeting is not the best places on earth; so it is in few

is there sitting upon each heart as a refining fire. Then the spirit burns and warms and gladdens and cheers each saint, and sends a holy thrill through the meeting, and makes it the house of God and gate of heaven to many a thirsty soul. If Christ is not in the heart, the fire cannot be done in to open the door, for he is ever a warming guest and abiding friend where he is cheerfully received. Brethren in the most holy faith keep alive the prayer meeting, let the divine presence burn upon each heart-altar, and revive instead of being few and spasmodic, may be lasting and permanent, and converts, instead of falling away by the way, after a few flattering steps will grow strong, and run like giants over the kingdom highway up to the celestial gates.

A. B. RUSSELL

For Zion's Herald.

SHALL THE HERALD CHANGE ITS NAME?

MR. EDITOR:—I have an idea in my head. Shall it be dismissed or cherished? I submit the question.

In every number of the *Herald* there are articles which one may wish to make his own. Should they be cut out, or shall the paper be carefully read, and the articles retained, and the

Herald without hesitation, for there is reading each side which may be of use to some one not pasted out of sight. The papers may be served, but an accumulating pile of newspaper is (with due respect to the *Herald*) always a pile, unless they are laid up so effectively that they are of no use. I have tried to do this, but have failed. I have been clearing up the same, after hastily clipping from the uninteresting rolls some of the choice clips for my scrap-book; they went the way of all newspapers, after I wrote. I regret I saw, a short time ago, a barrister Crocker packed with them—one was wrapped around a pair of overshoes, and another taken to protect a table from the plate of the other. Every time I place the article that I have in my eye, was one on an interesting and important subject by one of our deep thinkers—a valuable column. No doubt the author scratched his head many times with the holder of his "gifted pen" and to some purpose too, while writing the article, and now he had given precedence to a squabble. I am sure that I have many papers which are lost by the *Herald*, and never allow myself to be distressed without words of regret. Still they are destroyed, and the idea I have for two years is one of economy, and a good one.

I think.

The ground of my idea is, "The *Herald* worth preserving." That and what grows out of it was greatly refreshed about a year ago when I came across the first number of *Evangelical Standard*. Why can we not have the *Herald* in quarto for such a shape it would be suitable for binding and many families would thus be yearly supplied with a cheap and valuable addition to the library. To say nothing of literary merit, there are valuable church statistics and items of church news to which one would not get elsewhere. The prospect of looking them up is often a pleasure. The bound volumes of Zion's *Harbinger* manageable size, would be a valuable possession in any Methodist home. Perhaps some new subscribers would come forward with such a prospect.

Dear *Herald*, it is not possible for you to do more for the growth, and the preservation of your specimens from spending the long weary years of their short days in the garret, where the "fettered reason and the flow of soul" is left for the bling of unappreciating rats and mice?

H. ELIZABETH PERCIVAL
West Medford, Dec. 7.

The last second will be broken by the fall

pen upon it; but the last pen will be seen when the last man is ready to disappear.

